

# FOIA EXEMPTION FORM

Fill out this form completely. This form should be placed where the document that has been withheld is located and attached to a new document being created.

The following document has been segregated from this file:

Date of Record: 8/14/02

Date Segregated From File: 12/12/02

File Break: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Document (e.g., form, memo, letter, report, etc.): Record of Conversation

From: Carolyn Thompson

To: OF Lee Ross, Dir. of Water & Sewer Division, COR

Re: General Electric Site - Historic Channeling of Horseley Creek  
Rome, GA

Comments (Include Redaction of Documents): \_\_\_\_\_

File Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12/12/02

Determination Re-evaluated By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12/12/02

It has been determined that this record, or a portion thereof, must be withheld because it has been determined to be exempt from mandatory disclosure by virtue of 5 U.S.C. 552(b).<sup>\*</sup> Mark the exemption or exemptions that apply:

- |                                     |                |  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Exemption (1)  | Matters of National Defense or Foreign Policy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Exemption (2)  | Internal Agency Rules  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Exemption (3)  | Information Exempted by Other Statutes   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Exemption (4)  | Trade, Secrets, Commercial, or Financial Information (Confidential Business Information) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exemption (5)* | Privileged Inter- or Intra-Agency Memoranda <u>ANP</u>                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Exemption (6)  | Personal Privacy   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Exemption (7)* | Records or Information Compiled for Law Enforcement Purposes                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Exemption (8)  | Records of Financial Institutions  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Exemption (9)  | Geological or Geophysical Information and Data Concerning Wells.                         |

<sup>\*</sup>Exemptions 5 and portions of Exemption 7 (i.e., (b)(7)(A) & (b)(7)(C)) are discretionary exemptions and require review of designated records for release determination each time documents are requested.

This decision may be appealed by submitting a written appeal to the following address:

Agency Freedom of Information Officer (1105)  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: \_\_\_\_\_ - RIN - \_\_\_\_\_

(EPA Request Identification Number Assigned to FOIA Request)

## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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DATE: 08/14/2002

CALL ORIGINATOR: Carolyn Thompson, SAM

CALL RECEIVER: Lee Ross, Director of the Water and Sewer Division, City of Rome  
(706) 236-4560

SUBJECT: Historic Channeling of Horseleg Creek

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## CALL SUMMARY:

I asked Mr. Ross if he remembered if and when Horseleg Creek was channeled. He said that it was periodically channeled, usually at the request of property owners along the Creek. Their major complaints, he said, were that the creek would get clogged with debris from downed trees and other vegetation, and that this would cause flooding of their yards during rain events. Mr. Ross said there was no scheduled channeling that he recalls. He stated that the City would get mechanical excavators in there and most of the soils and debris removed would be from the banks, not the bottom of the creek. The bottom of the creek was so rocky, he said, that very little sediment would be there anyway and the real purpose for the channeling was to remove debris which was holding up flow. Rain events would cause heavy and fast flows, flushing the sediment on down Horseleg Creek. He recalls getting asked to do the channeling when he was working to get a sewer easement from property owners along the creek. The sanitary sewer line parallel to Horseleg Creek was replaced during the 90's (but not all the way down to the Coosa River), most probably around 1994.

The channeling resulted in the channel becoming wider, not deeper. He also said that sometimes property owners would complain about the channeling, worrying about loss of property, particularly trees at the edge of their banks being damaged.

Mr. Ross also stated that the Etowah and Oostanaula Rivers are visibly shallow and rocky. He wasn't sure, but he believed that the Coosa was the same.

I asked him if he recalled the stormwater ditch next to Walmart and Sams being channeled out and he said that stormwater drainage was handled by the Rome Department of Public Works (Kirk Milam, 706-236-4466).